



**Southeast New Mexico Fire Prevention Team**

**PHONE: (505) 434-7332**

**Email [nmfpet@yahoo.com](mailto:nmfpet@yahoo.com)**

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Interagency Partners Maintain Vigilance Over Public Lands**

Alamogordo, NM (May 9, 2006) – A partial closure order went into effect on the Lincoln National Forest on May 2, 2006 due to the extreme drought conditions. Local interagency fire management personnel are being assisted by fire crews and engines from Arizona, Oregon and Montana, are immediately available to suppress a wildfire. The partial closure order became necessary in order to protect the forest from the risk of wildfire and ensure the public's safety.

Officials on the Lincoln National Forest would like to thank the public for understanding the Stage III Closure Order that outlines the restricted areas. Fire crews are patrolling the forest, enforcing the closure order. An aircraft detection flight over the forest and adjacent public lands looks for smoke every day. The aircraft may perform two flights daily if there are thunderstorms or lightening in the area.

Under the current closure order, the following campgrounds on the Sacramento Ranger District remain open: Silver, Saddle, Apache, Pines, Upper and Lower Fir, Sleepygrass, and Deerhead. On the Smokey Bear Ranger District, the Sam Tobias group campground is open by reservation only. Many commercially-owned campgrounds in the local towns and villages are expected to remain open throughout the summer months.

While much of the Lincoln National Forest is closed to recreational use, the surrounding towns and villages welcome visitors for sightseeing, shopping and special events. Contact the local chambers of commerce and arts councils for the villages of Cloudcroft, Ruidoso, Mayhill, Sacramento, Weed, Timberon, Capitan and Queen to obtain a calendar of events.

For more information on current fire restrictions on public lands in New Mexico and Arizona, call toll-free 1-877-864-6985 or visit [www.fs.fed.us/r3/fire](http://www.fs.fed.us/r3/fire).

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